

NASA-SPONSORED CENTRAL OPERATION OF RESOURCES
FOR EDUCATORS (CORE)

Administered by Lorain County Joint Vocational School

NASA Cooperative Agreement NNX08AC13A

Jeff Ehmen

NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

(256) 961-1567

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Central Operation of Resources for Educators (CORE), operated through a cooperative agreement with Lorain County Joint Vocational School, Oberlin, Ohio, served as the worldwide distribution center for NASA-produced multimedia educational materials. CORE also supported the state-based NASA Educator Resource Center Network (ERCN) with materials and training to assist the Educator Resource Center (ERC) staff in better serving educators within their region.

CORE regularly communicated with the ERCN concerning required monthly reporting, internal professional development opportunities, and the availability of new products and materials. The ERCN includes more than 60 state-based sites located at universities, museums, and science centers. CORE also demonstrated applications of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and related content areas by providing curriculum support materials and opportunities for educators and students.

On June 30, 2013, at the conclusion of the cooperative agreement between NASA and Lorain County Joint Vocational School, CORE was closed. With the closure of CORE, educators have been redirected to online sources of NASA educational materials and video clips at the following link:

<http://www.nasa.gov/education/materials>

PROJECT GOALS

CORE directly supported the NASA Education Strategic Coordination Framework, specifically NASA Education Outcomes 6.1 (Improve retention of students in STEM disciplines by providing opportunities and activities along the education pipeline), and 6.2 (Promote STEM literacy through strategic partnerships with

formal and informal organizations). CORE supported these outcomes through the following goals:

- Provide professional development resources and training opportunities for NASA's Educator Resource Center Network related to NASA content and innovative teaching methodologies through use of technology in workshops and classrooms.
- Reproduce and distribute NASA's aerospace audiovisual and multimedia educational materials to K-16 educators nationally and internationally.
- Identify appropriate NASA educational publications with audiovisual and multimedia products to enhance K-16 educators' use of Earth Science, Space Science and other aerospace media.
- Provide personal assistance to K-16 educators with information, resources, technical support and referrals for NASA programs and services as it relates to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in aerospace products.
- Partner and collaborate with the NASA to assure that a broader number of educators in minority and underrepresented schools have access to NASA audiovisual and multimedia aerospace products and NASA programs.
- Demonstrate the use of NASA educational materials and technology to pre-service, formal and informal educators through training workshops provided via distance learning, on-site and off-site sessions.
- Preparation and submission of Weekly Activity Reports.

PROJECT BENEFIT TO OUTCOMES 6.1 and 6.2

CORE supported NASA Education efforts to accomplish Outcome 6.1 (Improve retention of students in STEM disciplines by providing opportunities and activities along the education pipeline) by:

- Reproducing and distributing NASA's aerospace audiovisual and multimedia educational materials to K-16 educators nationally and internationally.
- Identifying appropriate NASA educational publications with audiovisual and multimedia products to enhance K-16 educator's use of Earth Science, Space Science and other aerospace media.
- Providing personal assistance to K-16 educators with information, resources, technical support and referrals for NASA programs and services as it relates to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in aerospace products.

Efforts to accomplish Outcome 6.2 (Promote STEM literacy through strategic partnerships with formal and informal organizations) includes:

- Partnering and collaborating with other NASA education projects to assure that a greater number of educators in minority and underrepresented schools have access to NASA audiovisual and multimedia aerospace products and NASA programs.
- Facilitating collaboration with universities, industry, professional educational organizations, Department of Education, National Science Foundation, and the NASA education projects to assure that a broader number of educators have access to NASA audiovisual and multimedia aerospace products.
- Demonstrating the use of NASA educational materials and technology to pre-service, formal and informal educators through training workshops provided via distance learning, on-site and off-site sessions.

PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In addition to the project contributions to the PART measures listed below, CORE provided NASA educational materials distribution support to the NASA Educator Resource Center Network, comprised of over 60 resource facilities located at NASA Field Centers and partnering educational institutions such as universities and science centers. The CORE Web site received 236,467 page views. During the course of the cooperative agreement, CORE filled 71,758 orders of educational materials.

PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS TO PART MEASURES

With the support of CORE, the NASA Educator Resource Center Network was a contributor to APG 6.1.2.1 (Conduct no fewer than 200 interactive K-12 student activities that leverage the unique assets of NASA's missions.) A total of 67 short-duration student activities were conducted.

IMPROVEMENTS (e.g., project management, efficiencies, etc.) MADE IN THE PAST YEAR

CORE continued to hold bi-monthly telecons with the NASA Field Center Educator Resource Center (ERC) Coordinators. The purpose of the telecon is to inform and educate ERC staff about updates in NASA Education programs and products. ERC staff then share the information with their regional ERC sites.

PROJECT PARTNERS AND ROLE OF PARTNERS IN PROJECT EXECUTION

CORE, which was operated through a cooperative agreement between Marshall Space Flight Center and Lorain County Joint Vocational School, served as the worldwide distribution center for NASA-produced multimedia educational materials. CORE also supported the state-based NASA Educator Resource Center Network (ERCN) with materials and training to assist the Educator Resource Center staff in better serving educators within their region.